

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
(317) 232-9855

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7120**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 2125

**DATE PREPARED:** Dec 26, 2000

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Registration of Plumbing Engineers.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Chris Baker

**PHONE NUMBER:** 232-9851

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** ☒ **GENERAL**  
☒ **DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill establishes the qualifications for registration as a plumbing engineer. The bill also adds a plumbing engineer as a member of the Indiana Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and requires the Board to regulate plumbing engineers in Indiana.

**Effective Date:** Upon passage; July 1, 2001.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The proposal would increase the membership of the Board of Registration for Professional Engineers to eight members. It is estimated that one additional Board member could raise expenditures between \$1,100 and \$1,600 per fiscal year. The estimate is subject to FY 2001 expenditures of the Board and the distance a potential eighth member would travel to attend a meeting.

The Professional Licensing Agency (PLA) would have expenditures for additional printing and postage. It is believed the PLA could absorb these costs within their budget.

There may be a need for the PLA to employ additional staff for the administration of the license. The following table illustrates the salary structure of the various clerical (COMOT) staffing levels:

Level	Yearly Salary
COMOT 6	\$12,763
COMOT 5	\$14,304
COMOT 4	\$15,710
COMOT 3	\$17,333
COMOT 2	\$19,117
COMOT 1	\$21,280

As of August 2000, the PLA employed 50 authorized full-time staff members. Two of the positions at the time were vacant. The positions were an attorney and a secretary. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** The provision would require a license fee to be adopted by the Board. According to the American Society of Plumbing Engineers (ASPE), there are 173 Plumbing Engineers that are either current or past members of ASPE in Indiana.

If the fee were set to cover the salary of an additional COMOT 3 position, at \$18,016 in FY 2002 and \$18,734 in FY 2003, the approximate fee would be \$108. In order to absorb the cost of an additional board member as well, the fee would be \$116.

Revenues collected on professional engineering in FY 2000 were as follows: licenses \$11,380, examination fees \$44,845, fines and penalties \$14,839.

The bill also provides for a Class A misdemeanor. If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund and the state General Fund would increase. The maximum fine for a Class A misdemeanor is \$5,000. Criminal fines are deposited in the Common School Fund. If the case is filed in a circuit, superior, or county court, 70% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed and collected when a guilty verdict is entered would be deposited in the state General Fund. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 55% of the fee would be deposited in the state General Fund.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** A Class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year in jail. The average daily cost to incarcerate a prisoner in a county jail is approximately \$44.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from the following sources: (1) The county general fund would receive 27% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed in a court of record. Cities and towns maintaining a law enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record may receive 3% of court fees. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 20% of the court fee would be deposited in the county general fund and 25% would be deposited in the city or town general fund. (2) A \$3 fee would be assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county law enforcement continuing education fund. (3) A \$2 jury fee is assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county user fee fund to supplement the compensation of jury members.

**State Agencies Affected:** Indiana Professional Licensing Agency; State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

**Information Sources:** Stanley Wolfson, American Society of Plumbing Engineers; Indiana Professional Licensing Agency; Indiana Department of State Personnel.